

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 00731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, US

SUBJECT: MISSION COMMENT ON TINDEMAN'S REPORT PROPOSALS FOR EC-US
RELATIONS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 607, (B) EC BRUSSELS 101

1. FROM THE COMMENTS MADE TO ME BY LUXEMBOURG PERMREP (AND
CURRENT COREPER CHAIRMAN) DONDELINGER, SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES AND
OTHERS, I BELIEVE A GOOD NUMBER OF RESPONSIBLE EUROPEANS
SHARE MY IMPRESSION THAT THE PORTION OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT
DEALING WITH US RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY IS BOTH OUT-OF-
DATE AND EVEN POTENTIALLY RETROGRESSIVE. BY STRESSING AS
HE DOES THE NEED TO DEFINE (AGAIN) " THE CHARACTER AND SCOPE"
OF OUR RELATIONS, TINDEMANS APPEARS TO BE HARKING BACK TO
THE CONTROVERSIES OF 1973-74 WHICH, UP TO NOW, WE HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING BEHIND US. EQUALLY AS TROUBLING, BY
FOCUSING AGAIN ON THE NEED FOR A SORT OF PHILOSOPHICAL
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FRAMEWORK, HE RISKS SLOWING DOWN, IF NOT ACTUALLY DERAIL-

ING, THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH WE BELIEVE OUGHT TO BE PURSUED FOR BUILDING ON THE MECHANISMS WHICH EVOLVED OUT OF THE GYMnich FORMULA AND OTTAWA DECLARATION, AND FOR EXPANDING THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF OUR DIALOGUE.

2. HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS INTERPRETATION OF TINDEMANS'S SECTION ON US/EC RELATIONS IS WRONG. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY DEFINITIVE ELUCIDATION OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND AND CAN GO ONLY BY THE LANGUAGE IN THE REPORT.

3. IF IN FACT HE IS PROPOSING A DISCUSSION ABOUT SPECIFIC ISSUES, THE IDEA THAT A SINGLE EUROPEAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE NOMINATED TO REPRESENT THE OTHER EIGHT, AND SOMEHOW BE EMPOWERED TO "NEGOTIATE" WITH US PRESIDENT (AS TINDEMANS TOLD THE AUDIENCE AT THE LUNCH REPORTED IN REF A) SEEMS HIGHLY UNREALISTIC. REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS CHOSEN FOR THIS ROLE, NO OTHER STATE WOULD BE LIKELY TO GIVE HIM ANY SIGNIFICANT AUTHORITY, NOR PERMIT HIM TO DO, IN THEIR NAME, MUCH MORE THAN HOLD A VERY GENERAL DISCUSSION.

4. I HAVE PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED (REF B) A PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE. I BELIEVE THE TIME MAY BE REPE TO REVIVE THE PROPOSAL THAT WE BUILD ON THE GYMnich FORMULA THROUGH "REINFORCED" CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND EQUIVALENT US OFFICIALS. ALSO, WE HAVE SUGGESTED A BROADENING AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS AND OTHER AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS WE CURRENTLY HAVE WITH THE COMMISSION, MAINLY ON TOPICS IN WHICH COMMISSION COMPETENCE IS DOMINANT OR, AT LEAST, IMPORTANT, AN EFFORT TO BUILD UP OUR RELATIONSHIP ON THE FOREIGN POLICY SIDE IS APPROPRIATE BOTH AS A MEANS OF RECOGNIZING THE INCREASING ROLE WHICH THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH IS ASSUMING IN THESE MATTERS AND AS A PRACTICAL METHOD OF BRINGING OUR INFLUENCE TO BEAR WHERE IT COUNTS.

5. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ME, SOAMES OFFERED
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A VARIANT ON THIS CONCEPT WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD BE PUT FORWARD SHORTLY AS A FORMAL COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS COMMENTS ON TINDEMANS. HE WILL SUGGEST THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, WEARING THEIR POLITICAL COOPERATION HATS (AND INCLUDING THE COMMISSION) INITIATE AN ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATION WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WHILE THIS IS A LEVEL OR TWO ABOVE OUR OWN

PROPOSAL, IT FITS THE CONCEPT. BUT THE MINISTERIAL
LEVEL MAY REOPEN THE OLD DEBATE. IT IS PERHAPS
BETTER TO ESCALATE SHLOWLY.

6. I AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CURRTNE LINE THAT
WE SHOULD TAKE NO PUBLIC POSITION ON THIS ROPOSAL,
(OR ANY OTHER ASPCET OF THE REPORT) PENDING FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF IT IN EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HOWEVER, IF
DEPARTMENT READS THE TINDEMAN'S REPORT AS WE DO AND
SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE RISKS INVOLVED SHOULD
THE TINDEMANS' IDEA BEGIN TO CATCH ON, IT MAY BE
DESIRABLE TO COMMENT PRIVATELY TO KEY OFFICIALS IN
MEMBER CAPITALS AND COMMISSION ALONG LINES PARA 1
ABOVE, AT LEAST RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WOULD
BE INVOLVED AND WHAT PURPOSE A DISCUSSION ABOUT
"CHARACTER AND SCOPE" OF OUR RELATIONS CAN SERVE.
GREENWALD

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